

## To Ban Testing

Physicist Urges U. S. to Take Initiative in Negotiations

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

If we go along with the Russian bomb-test enthusiasts and start testing in the atmosphere, too, who will believe that we can be trusted to be able to stop the nuclear arms race spiral?

Neither Russia nor the United States seems really serious about taking the necessary steps for an effective control of the nuclear menace and agreeing on crucial measures of disarmament before more countries have H-bombs.

The Soviets want to test because they trail behind us in the somber skill of nuclear weaponry. For the same reason all other nations might feel justified to test.

The leaders of the West want to have a superiority in nuclear striking power, in a dubious effort to negotiate successfully from threatening military strength. If they want to catch up and we want to keep ahead, when can we ever negotiate with tangible results?

True, the Western governments do not want to create a precedent for an unverifiable disarmament agreement in the form of an indefinite moratorium on nuclear tests. It is, however, strange logic when the fear of a clandestine series of nuclear explosions is said to mar all possibilities of a genuine test-ban agreement, while even underground tests have been monitored with unexpected accuracy in far distant lands, and while neither the U. S. nor Russia is much interested in underground tests.

### Use of Existing Systems

In the realm of inspection for disarmament, few activities can be monitored by impartial instrumentation as well as nuclear explosions. Is it so unrealistic to suggest that we propose a treaty banning atmospheric, underwater and near-by space tests, with existing detection systems, coordinated through an international control commission?

The present Geneva Disarmament Conference should nominate a committee to negotiate a ban on underground and far outer-space tests with international inspection, be it of the type of three annual on-site inspections which Russia once offered to accept, or of the random sampling type as proposed in a similar context by Prof. Louis Sohn.

Inspection should in no case rely on intelligence agencies. If we want to establish mutual trust and confidence among nations, it has to be through open inspection. These more complex and less imminent problems of a complete test-ban treaty could be handled in the framework of control systems to be negotiated for wider disarmament measures.

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We must take the initiative and decision to turn away from policies of short-sighted expediency, policies which rely on an increasingly unstable deterrent and which lead to destruction. The human race has enough resources, enough competent and compassionate men and women to deal with this situation which demands integrity and responsibility toward the children of the world.

HERBERT JEHLE.

Washington, April 4, 1962.